Home Improvement Scammers Take Money, Don't Complete Work

Use caution when hiring a home improvement contractor. Scams abound, especially following a major storm, flood, or other weather event when many homeowners are trying to repair their houses. But contractor scams can happen any time, so be wary of high-pressure sales tactics, upfront fees, and fly-by-night businesses. Con artists will take homeowners' money and deliver slipshod work... or no work at all.

How the Scam Works:

Home improvement scams can start with a knock on the door, a flyer, or an ad.

- Watch out for "red flags." Say no to cash-only deals, high-pressure sales tactics, high upfront payments, handshake deals without a contract, and on-site inspections. Not all "storm chasers" are con artists, but enough are that you should be cautious any time a home contractor contacts you first...especially after a natural disaster.
- Ask for references and check them out. Bad contractors will be reluctant to share this information and scammers won't wait for you to do your homework.





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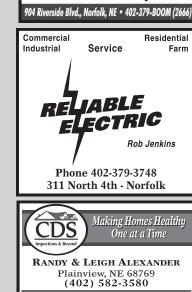
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